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OCTOBER LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

METRO AREAS

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that ten of the twelve metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) had lower rates in October 2005 than in October 2004 or September 2005. Two MSAs, Green Bay at 3.8% and Fond du Lac at 3.6% were unchanged from October 2004, but had improved rates over September 2005.

Nine of the state's twelve MSAs had unemployment rates under 4.0 percent, led by the Madison MSA at 2.7%, the La Crosse MSA at 3.1%, and the Wausau MSA at 3.3%. The Milwaukee/Waukesha MSA at 4.3%, the Janesville/Beloit MSA at 4.4%, and the Racine MSA at 5.0% were the three MSAs at 4.0% or higher.

COUNTY RATES

Fifty-three of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties had lower unemployment rates in October 2005 than they experienced in October 2004, eight were unchanged and eleven had higher rates. Sixty counties had lower rates in October than they experienced in September. Nine counties saw higher unemployment rates in October than September, and three were unchanged.

"County and local unemployment figures for last month indicate another round of good news for Wisconsin workers. Our continued efforts to build Wisconsin's workforce are clearly paying off," Secretary Gassman said.

The best improvement in the state over the year was in Menominee County, where the rate dropped from 9.3 percent in October 2004, to 8.0 percent in October 2005. Manitowoc County dropped from 4.8 percent in October 2004 to 3.8 percent in October 2005. The largest increase over the year was in Ashland County, where the unemployment rate in October 2004 was 3.9 percent. Ashland County's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent this year in October.

Forty-four counties had unemployment rates under 4.0 percent and five of those had rates under 3.0 percent, including Iowa County at 2.9%, Buffalo and Pierce counties at 2.8%, Trempealeau County at 2.7 percent, and Dane County at 2.6 percent. There were nine counties in the state with 5.0 percent or higher unemployment rates, with two of those at rates of 6.0 percent or higher. Those two were Iron County at 6.4% and Menominee County at 8.0 percent.

Geographic areas of the state with especially low rates included the northwestern portion of the state and the southwestern portion of the state, both with unemployment rates of 3.3 percent, and the south central portion of the state with a very low 3.2% unemployment rate. All geographic areas of the state saw lower rates in October than they had in September, and all but one saw lower rates in October 2005 than they had in October 2004. The northern tier of the state had the same rate this October as it had October 2004.

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Employment and Labor Force Household Survey

Unadjusted estimates	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,046,500	3,046,400	3,068,000
Employed	2,930,400	2,923,000	2,944,300
Unemployed	116,100	123,400	123,700
Wis. Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.1%	4.0%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.8%	5.1%

Seasonally adjusted	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,046,200	3,047,300	3,068,500
Employed	2,908,400	2,905,100	2,924,700
Unemployed	137,800	142,200	143,800
Wis. Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.7%	4.7%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.1%	5.5%

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Unemployment % not seasonally adjusted	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Wisconsin	3.8	4.1	4.0
Appleton	3.5	3.8	3.8
Eau Claire	3.4	3.7	3.7
Fond du Lac	3.6	3.7	3.6
Green Bay	3.8	4.0	3.8
Janesville	4.4	4.7	4.6
La Crosse	3.1	3.5	3.3
Madison	2.7	2.9	2.8
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis	4.3	4.6	4.7
Oshkosh-Neenah	3.6	3.8	3.8
Racine	5.0	5.2	5.1
Sheboygan	3.4	3.7	3.6
Wausau	3.3	3.6	3.4

Source *Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Office of Economic Advisors

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
October 2005
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
5	ADAMS	5.1%	5.2%	6	5.5%	52	MARATHON	3.3%	3.6%	50	3.4%
9	ASHLAND	5.0%	4.0%	34	3.9%	6	MARINETTE	5.1%	5.1%	8	5.1%
44	BARRON	3.5%	3.7%	46	4.0%	15	MARQUETTE	4.4%	4.5%	15	4.9%
37	BAYFIELD	3.6%	4.1%	24	4.1%	1	MENOMINEE	8.0%	9.0%	1	9.3%
32	BROWN	3.8%	3.9%	37	3.7%	4	MILWAUKEE	5.2%	5.5%	4	5.5%
70	BUFFALO	2.8%	3.2%	70	3.2%	60	MONROE	3.2%	3.4%	65	3.5%
35	BURNETT	3.7%	3.9%	35	4.1%	13	OCONTO	4.5%	4.7%	13	4.9%
58	CALUMET	3.2%	3.5%	55	3.3%	25	ONEIDA	4.1%	4.2%	23	4.3%
30	CHIPPEWA	3.8%	4.0%	29	4.3%	40	OUTAGAMIE	3.6%	3.8%	42	3.9%
38	CLARK	3.6%	4.0%	27	4.1%	67	OZAUKEE	3.0%	3.4%	62	3.0%
42	COLUMBIA	3.6%	3.6%	52	3.8%	49	PEPIN	3.3%	3.8%	39	3.4%
46	CRAWFORD	3.4%	3.7%	44	3.7%	69	PIERCE	2.8%	3.5%	53	3.2%
72	DANE	2.6%	2.8%	72	2.7%	36	POLK	3.7%	3.9%	36	3.8%
27	DODGE	4.0%	4.3%	19	4.3%	54	PORTAGE	3.3%	3.5%	57	3.6%
48	DOOR	3.4%	3.5%	59	3.5%	33	PRICE	3.8%	3.7%	48	3.3%
29	DOUGLAS	3.9%	4.5%	14	4.3%	7	RACINE	5.0%	5.2%	5	5.1%
65	DUNN	3.1%	3.3%	69	3.2%	61	RICHLAND	3.2%	3.4%	66	3.7%
59	EAU CLAIRE	3.2%	3.5%	56	3.3%	14	ROCK	4.4%	4.7%	12	4.6%
3	FLORENCE	5.6%	6.0%	2	5.2%	16	RUSK	4.2%	4.8%	10	4.8%
41	FOND DU LAC	3.6%	3.7%	47	3.6%	45	SAUK	3.5%	3.4%	68	3.6%
8	FOREST	5.0%	5.1%	7	4.5%	26	SAWYER	4.1%	4.0%	32	3.9%
64	GRANT	3.1%	3.4%	64	3.3%	21	SHAWANO	4.2%	4.1%	25	4.0%
43	GREEN	3.5%	3.8%	40	3.4%	47	SHEBOYGAN	3.4%	3.7%	45	3.6%
22	GREEN LAKE	4.2%	4.0%	33	4.4%	57	ST. CROIX	3.2%	4.0%	26	3.5%
68	IOWA	2.9%	3.4%	60	2.9%	66	TAYLOR	3.0%	3.4%	61	3.6%
2	IRON	6.4%	5.8%	3	6.2%	71	TREMPEALEAU	2.7%	3.0%	71	3.2%
24	JACKSON	4.1%	4.4%	17	4.0%	50	VERNON	3.3%	3.7%	43	3.5%
51	JEFFERSON	3.3%	3.6%	49	3.9%	28	VILAS	4.0%	4.0%	31	4.2%
12	JUNEAU	4.6%	4.8%	11	5.0%	55	WALWORTH	3.3%	3.5%	58	3.5%
11	KENOSHA	4.7%	4.9%	9	5.0%	17	WASHBURN	4.2%	4.4%	18	4.4%
34	KEWAUNEE	3.7%	4.0%	28	3.3%	53	WASHINGTON	3.3%	3.6%	51	3.6%
62	LA CROSSE	3.1%	3.5%	54	3.2%	63	WAUKESHA	3.1%	3.4%	63	3.4%
56	LAFAYETTE	3.3%	3.4%	67	3.3%	18	WAUPACA	4.2%	4.3%	20	4.2%
10	LANGLADE	4.8%	4.5%	16	5.1%	23	WAUSHARA	4.2%	3.9%	38	4.4%
19	LINCOLN	4.2%	4.3%	21	4.2%	39	WINNEBAGO	3.6%	3.8%	41	3.8%
31	MANITOWOC	3.8%	4.0%	30	4.8%	20	WOOD	4.2%	4.3%	22	4.2%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Bureau of Workforce Information

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
October 2005
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
6	APPLETON CITY	4.7%	4.8%	9	5.1%
2	BELOIT CITY	6.6%	6.4%	3	6.8%
24	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.2%	3.1%	27	3.2%
20	EAU CLAIRE CITY	3.5%	3.8%	21	3.8%
11	FOND DU LAC CITY	4.4%	4.5%	14	4.4%
23	FRANKLIN CITY	3.2%	3.5%	22	3.4%
4	GREEN BAY CITY	5.6%	5.8%	4	5.7%
19	GREENFIELD CITY	3.6%	3.9%	19	4.0%
7	JANESVILLE CITY	4.6%	5.1%	6	5.1%
5	KENOSHA CITY	5.4%	5.7%	5	5.8%
18	LA CROSSE CITY	3.8%	4.2%	17	3.9%
28	MADISON CITY	2.7%	3.0%	28	2.9%
8	MANITOWOC CITY	4.6%	4.9%	7	5.9%
26	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	3.0%	3.4%	23	3.4%
3	MILWAUKEE CITY	6.5%	6.7%	2	6.8%
27	NEENAH CITY	3.0%	3.2%	26	3.3%
25	NEW BERLIN CITY	3.1%	3.4%	24	3.3%
21	OAK CREEK CITY	3.4%	3.8%	20	3.8%
15	OSHKOSH CITY	4.0%	4.3%	16	4.2%
1	RACINE CITY	8.0%	8.3%	1	8.2%
10	SHEBOYGAN CITY	4.4%	4.6%	11	4.6%
13	STEVENS POINT CITY	4.1%	4.5%	13	4.5%
16	SUPERIOR CITY	3.9%	4.5%	12	4.3%
17	WAUKESHA CITY	3.9%	4.2%	18	4.5%
12	WAUSAU CITY	4.3%	4.7%	10	4.9%
22	WAUWATOSA CITY	3.3%	3.4%	25	3.6%
14	WEST ALLIS CITY	4.1%	4.4%	15	4.6%
9	WEST BEND CITY	4.5%	4.8%	8	4.8%

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